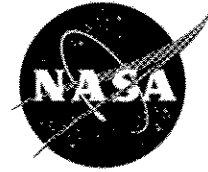


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 13, 2011

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Attendees at the AIAA SPACE 2011 Conference Chairmen's Dinner on September 26, 2011

On September 26, 2011, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), a non-profit under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host the SPACE 2011 Conference Chairmen's Dinner on The Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, starting at 6 PM. The event is also co-hosted by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, and The Boeing Company.

Approximately 120 people are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the event including all food and beverages is \$165.00 per person. The Chairman's Dinner will be attended by AIAA members, employees of NASA and other Federal agencies, and representatives of the aerospace industry, academia, and other non-profit organizations. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. This event will be held in conjunction with the AIAA SPACE 2011 Conference and will provide additional opportunities to discuss science and exploration related issues with other guests. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsor, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the AIAA or the co-hosts such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Sometimes sponsors at an event may also provide small gift items. Attendees are reminded the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a) which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year. Other than for presentation items with little intrinsic value and no additional function, such

as pins or patches with mission emblems, NASA invitees must reimburse the sponsor for full value of any gift items exceeding these caps distributed by the sponsors.

Moreover, non-career NASA employees subject to the ethics pledge should reimburse sponsors, which are lobbying organizations for purposes of the ethics pledge, the full value of any such gift items accepted even if these monetary caps are not exceeded.

Kathleen T. Spear
for Adam F. Greenstone